

Charting a course to _____



_____ **Clarity**



Water Quality Crediting Program

TMDL Tracking and Verification

Water Quality Crediting Program Design

Project Purpose

- **Develop a meaningful and trackable unit of credit linking projects, maintenance, and other activities to expected pollutant reductions**
- **Design operational protocols for a crediting program**
- **Define a consistent accounting mechanism for pollutant load reductions**

Water Quality Crediting Program Team

- **Project Team develops products**
 - Environmental Incentives
 - Kieser & Associates
- **TMDL Advisors direct production & integrate**
 - Lahontan, NDEP & TRPA
- **Project Advisory Committee provide review & guidance**
 - National experts on crediting & trading programs
 - CA, NV & Tahoe specific policy experts

Water Quality Crediting Program Approach

- **Assess Tahoe need and analogous programs**
 - Complete
- **Develop a consistent and robust credit & define appropriate uses**
 - Current through summer
- **Establish Program guidelines, roles & protocols**
 - Summer and fall
- **Related projects develop tools**
 - Tracking
 - Verification & assessment

What is a Water Quality Credit?

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- **An estimate of pollutant loading mass**
 - **A testable, verifiable and adaptable unit**
 - **Characteristics**
 - Based on best available science
 - Easy to use by many
 - Practical for most significant sources and controls
 - Supports adaptive management


Water Quality Credit Uses

General

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- **Estimate individual project benefits & compare to RSWMP monitoring results**
 - **Prioritize projects in programmatic planning**
 - **Track and report project & programmatic accomplishments**

Water Quality Credit Uses

TMDL Specific

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- **Account for pollutant reductions with respect to TMDL load reduction milestones & NPDES permits**
 - **Enable geographic flexibility in achieving load reductions & permit compliance**

Monitoring & Verification

- **Monitor representative projects and actions for credit verification**
- **Compare expected pollutant reductions with measured reductions - adaptive management**
- **Develop rapid field verification techniques**
 - Verify project constructed as planned
 - Determine if performing or needing maintenance

Crediting Program & Management System

- **Crediting and tracking system will feed into an overall TMDL Management System**
 - Provides performance feedback for continual improvement
- **Management System guides adaptive management through continued research and RSWMP monitoring**

TMDL Crediting and Tracking Program Timeline

- **TMDL document for review 2008**
- **Crediting and Tracking systems developed 2009**
- **Revised NPDES permits and operational TMDL Management 2010**